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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

***Mariposa County Farm Bureau***

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Lyle Turpin, *President*

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches in Mariposa County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. **Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final RIS/EIR released July 21.** This would give me time to review the many pages of the document in the time allowed.
2. **Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on our County.** Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have the opportunity to understand and discuss, even after we review the document there will be a lot we won't understand. You need to tell us how the plan will affect us, its the right thing to do.

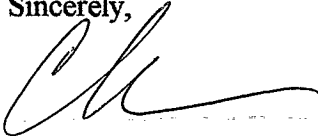
**Comments:** I believe in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farm land the Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and

repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,



Chris Phillips, Board of Directors  
Mariposa County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Governor Gray Davis  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
Senator Richard Monteith  
Assemblyman George House  
Representative George Radanovich